

Message Text

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14

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00

NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 SAM-01 OPIC-03

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R 221920Z AUG 75

FM AMEMBASSY LISBON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3884

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MADRID

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM

USMISSION NATO

DIA WASHDC

USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GER

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EO 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT, PFOR, PO, US

SUBJ: CODEL OBEY MEETS SOARES

REF: LISBON 4783 DTG 211820Z AUG 75

SUMMARY: AT HIS INITIATIVE MARIO SOARES MET WITH CODEL OBEY
AUGUST 21. SOARES URGED THAT U.S. ENCOURAGE DEMOCRATIC SOLUTIONS
FOR PORTUGAL, WITHHOLDING SUPPORT FROM "CONSPIRATORIAL" GROUPS
AND HELPING OUT DEMOCRATIC FORCES. HE ASKED FOR U.S. PUBLIC TO
SEND MONEY TO DEMOCRATIC PARTIES IN PORTUGAL, WITH USG AIDING
PORTUGUESE ECONOMY ON GOVERNMENT-TO-GOVERNMENT BASIS. SOARES
PRAISED RECENT FORD AND KISSINGER SPEECHES AS HELPFUL; SAID
PORTUGUESE WELCOMED THEM AND U.S. PRESENCE IN PORTUGAL IN GENERAL.
SOARES COMMENTED ON PS' RELATIONS WITH COMMUNISTS (PCP) AND PPD;
CLAIMED 80 PERCENT OF MILITARY SUPPORTS PS-LED DRIVE AGAINST PM
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GONCALVES. CODEL DELIGHTED AT OPPORTUNITY MEET SOARES, COMMENTED

FAVORABLY ON IMPRESSION HE LEFT. END SUMMARY.

1. CODEL OBEY SPENT HALF HOUR AT SOCIALIST PARTY (PS) HEADQUARTERS AFTERNOON AUGUST 21. FOLLOWING BRIEFING CODEL LEFT PREMISES, BEING SUMMONED BACK WITHIN MOMENTS AT REQUEST PS SECRETARY GENERAL MARIO SOARES. SOARES HAD HEARD GROUP WAS PRESENT AND WANTED TO MEET CONGRESSMEN. CODEL RETURNED, SPENT MOST OF NEXT HOUR IN FRANK CONVERSATION WITH SOARES, ENDED BY TAKING PHOTOGRAPHS WITH SOARES AND GETTING HIS AUTOGRAPH.

2. WHAT SHOULD U.S. DO TO HELP? SOARES ANSWERED QUESTION BY LAUNCHING SHORT MONOLOGUE ON THEME: U.S. MUST HELP DEMOCRATIC FORCE IN PORTUGAL, WITHHOLD SUPPORT FROM "CONSPIRATORIAL" GROUPS. EXILES ARE NOW ORGANIZING TO INTERVENE. STRONG ANTI-COMMUNIST REACTION IN PORTUGAL CAN PLAY INTO HANDS OF GROUPS ON RIGHT, AND PS IS ANXIOUS TO PREVENT SUCH POLARIZATION. ANY CONSPIRATORIAL RIGHTIST MOVE INSIDE PORTUGAL WOULD BE TRAGIC -- DOOMED IN ADVANCE TO FAIL AND CERTAIN TO BENEFIT ONLY COMMUNISTS. DEMOCRATIC FORCES INSIDE PORTUGAL ARE CAPABLE OF BEATING COMMUNISTS; U.S. OUGHT TO ENCOURAGE THEM. ANSWERING FOLLOW-UP QUESTION ON U.S. SUPPORT FOR CONSPIRATORIAL ACTIVITIES, SOARES SAID HE WAS THINKING OF GENERAL SPINOLA'S U.S. TRIP AND HIS EFFORTS TO GET AMERICAN FINANCIAL BACKING.

3. WAYS U.S. CAN HELP: SOARES SAID CAUSE OF PORTUGUESE DEMOCRATS CAN BE AIDED IN TWO WAYS:

A. BY U.S. PUBLIC (TRADE UNIONS, LITERARY WORLD, NEWSMEN) SENDING MONEY TO DEMOCRATIC POLITICAL PARTIES, TRADE UNIONS, MEDIA COUNTERPARTS;
B. BY GOVERNMENT-TO-GOVERNMENT AID PROJECTS AIMED AT CREATING ECONOMIC STABILITY NECESSARY FOR ACHIEVING POLITICAL STABILITY; PORTUGAL NEEDS NEW INDUSTRY, INVESTMENT, MORE JOBS. U.S. AID OFFERS SHOULD BE MADE WITHOUT POLITICAL CONDITIONS ATTACHED, ON ASSUMPTION THAT TIME LAG BETWEEN AID OFFER AND PROJECT UNDERTAKING WOULD BE SUFFICIENT INTERVAL IN WHICH PORTUGUESE DEMOCRATS CAN REGAIN UPPER HAND. IF DEMOCRATS LOSE, U.S. WOULD BE FREE TO PULL BACK. WHAT IS IMPORTANT IS THAT DEMOCRATS KNOW THEY CAN COUNT ON U.S.

4. FORD AND KISSINGER SPEECHES: SOARES PRAISED RECENT SPEECHES LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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BY PRES FORD AND SECY KISSINGER. FORD SPEECH WAS INTERPRETED BY PORTUGUESE AS WARNING TO USSR NOT TO INTERVENE. KISSINGER'S SPEECH LET PORTUGUESE KNOW THAT U.S. WILL NOT TOLERATE "NEW CUBA" IN WESTERN EUROPE. SOARES EMPHASIZED THAT, CONTRARY TO OTHER COUNTRIES, THERE IS NO ANTI-AMERICAN FEELING IN PORTUGAL. QUITE THE OPPOSITE, PORTUGUESE WELCOME U.S. INTEREST AND PRESENCE IN THEIR COUNTRY.

5. PORTUGUESE POLITICAL LINEUP: CODEL NOTED THAT 80 PERCENT OF PUBLIC VOTED FOR DEMOCRATIC PARTIES. SOARES SAID APPROXIMATELY SAME PERCENTAGE OF MILITARY SUPPORTS ANTI-GONCALVES DRIVE (REFTEL). ANSWERING QUESTION ON PS' RELATIONS WITH OTHER PARTIES SOARES STATED:

A. IT IS NOT TRUE PS WOULD "LINE UP MORE VOLUNTARILY" WITH PCP (AS CODEL HAD BEEN TOLD IN EARLIER MEETING) THAT WITH PPD; SOARES ASSERTED THAT REASON WHY PCP DOES NOT DOMINATE PORTUGAL TODAY IS OPPOSITION POSED BY PS;

B. AS FOR PPD, PS HAS TACIT AGREEMENTS WITH LEADERSHIP, ALTHOUGH COOPERATION AT BASE LEVEL IS DIFFICULT DUE TO HIGHLY REACTIONARY VIEWS OF MUCH OF THAT PARTY'S MEMBERSHIP.

6. COMMENT: SOARES' EAGERNESS TO MEET WITH CODEL WAS CLEAR. HE DASHED INTO MEETING FROM SESSION WITH TV CAMERAMEN, STAYED WITH CODEL FOR AS LONG AS CONGRESSMEN WISHED, INTERRUPTED MEETING ONLY BRIEFLY FOR QUICK EXAM BY DOCTOR CALLED IN FOR CHECKUP (SOARES HAS BEEN RECOVERING FROM BOUT WITH FLU). SOARES CAME ON STRONG WITH DOUBLE PITCH, ASKING FOR FINANCIAL/MORAL HELP AND DISCOURAGING AID TO NON-DEMOCRATIC RIGHT. CODEL WAS DELIGHTED AT OPPORTUNITY TO MEET SOARES AND EXPRESSED "GRATITUDE" FOR CRUCIAL ROLE HE AND PS ARE PLAYING IN PRESERVING PORTUGUESE DEMOCRACY. CODEL COMMENTS FOLLOWING MEETING CONFIRMED THAT SOARES HAD LEFT VERY FAVORABLE IMPRESSION ON CONGRESSMEN.
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